

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 INR-07 SP-02 PRS-01 EURE-00

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P R 031751Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0026

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14217

FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER FROM AMBASSADOR RUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH MOD BOURGES' INVITATION FOR SECRETARY  
SCHLESINGER TO VISIT PARIS

REF: (A) PARIS 12225; (B) SECDEF 230915Z MAY 1975

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR MESSAGE TO MOD BOURGES CONTAINED  
IN REF B, BOURGES' DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TOLD MY POL/MIL  
OFFICER THAT BOURGES WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU AND MRS.  
SCHLESINGER -- AS WELL AS ANY OF YOUR STAFF THAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPANY YOU -- TO VISIT HIM IN PARIS AT  
A TIME OF YOUR CHOOSING DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.  
DIPLOMATIC ADVISER SAID THAT BOURGES' SCHEDULE IS TIGHT  
UNTIL THEN. CONSEQUENTLY, SINCE BOURGES WOULD LIKE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU AS EARLY AS CONVENIENTLY  
POSSIBLE, HE IS SUGGESTING THE SEPTEMBER TIME FRAME.  
DEPENDING ON YOUR AVAILABILITY, INFORMAL MOD STAFF PLAN-  
NING ANTICIPATES A TWO OR THREE DAY VISIT WITH AMPLE  
TIME FOR PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN YOU AND BOURGES  
AND ANY SIDE TRIPS TO FRENCH DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS (OR  
ELSEWHERE) THAT YOU MIGHT WISH. IN LIGHT OF YOUR  
SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER, MOD WONDERS WHETHER YOU WOULD  
BE ABLE TO SUGGEST "PREFERRED" AND A "SECOND CHOICE"  
SET OF DATES, PERHAPS WITH ONE IN THE FIRST HALF OF  
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SEPTEMBER AND THE OTHER IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER.

POL/MIL OFFICER SAID THAT WE WOULD TRANSMIT BOURGES' SUGGESTION TO YOU, AND ADDED THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT FROM YOUR STANDPOINT TO COMBINE A VISIT TO PARIS WITH ANOTHER TRIP TO EUROPE SCHEDULED FOR OTHER REASONS (E.G., DPC OR NPG MINISTERIALS). WHILE NOT EXCLUDING IN ANY WAY THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS SCENARIO MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOURGES, HIS DIPLOMATIC ADVISER SIMPLY NOTED THAT YOUR TRIP TO PARIS -- JUST BEFORE OR JUST AFTER A NATO MINISTERIAL -- COULD PROVOKE PRESS SPECULATION IN FRANCE THAT MIGHT NOT SERVE THE OVERALL INTEREST OF PRAGMATIC FRANCO-AMERICAN COOPERATION ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS.

2. COMMENT: I HOPE THAT YOUR SCHEDULE WILL PERMIT A VISIT TO PARIS IN SEPTEMBER. THIS IS THE PREFERRED OPTION AS FAR AS THE FRENCH ARE CONCERNED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOUR SCHEDULE WILL NOT PERMIT A SEPTEMBER VISIT, PERHAPS YOU COULD SUGGEST SEVERAL DATES FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT TO PARIS LATER IN THE YEAR.

RUSH

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